

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 041313  
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 DHA-02 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 INR-07  
SSO-00 INRE-00 /043 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/B - MR. PACE:LEE  
APPROVED BY ARA - MR. LUERS  
ARA - SMOSKOWITZ (DRAFT)  
SCA/SCS - FSTEVENS (INFO)  
-----242000 030083 /41

O 241648Z FEB 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

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STADIS/////////////////////////////////  
FOR CHARGE FROM ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, BL

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA

REFS: (A) STATE 32656; (B) LA PAZ 882; (C) LA PAZ 692;  
(D) LA PAZ 690

1. WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED AT MINISTER OF INTERIOR PEREDA'S FAILURE TO DATE TO KEEP HIS PLEDGE OF A PROMPT REVIEW OF ALL PRISONER CASES. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL D, THE MINISTER PROMISED THE USG ON JANUARY 25 THAT A NUMBER OF CASES QUOTE COULD BE RESOLVED WITHIN THIRTY DAYS WITH PRISONERS FREED FROM JAIL AND EXPELLED UNQUOTE. THE THIRTY DAYS WILL ELAPSE ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25. FURTHER, DNSP CHIEF APARICIO TOLD THE VISITING STATE DEPARTMENT TEAM (REFTEL B) THAT QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITHIN TEN TO TWENTY DAYS 50 PERCENT OF THE CASES WOULD PROBABLY BE DISMISSED UNQUOTE. THAT PERIOD OF TIME ALREADY HAS PASSED.

2. ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IN RECENT WEEKS, THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED PRISONER FAMILIES, CONGRESSIONAL STAFFS AND THE PRESS THAT IT WAS CLOSELY MONITORING THE MINISTER'S REVIEW

OF THE PRISONER CASES. REGARDING THE ONE MONTH TIMETABLE, WE FOLLOWED THE EMBASSY'S SUGGESTED GUIDANCE AS OUTLINED ORIGINALLY IN REFTEL C, NOTING THE 30-DAY LIMIT OF THE

REVIEW, BUT NOT MENTIONING SPECIFIC DATES. IN OUR VIEW, HAVING IN MIND THE NEED TO BALANCE BOTH BOLIVIAN AND US SENSITIVITIES, THE RESULTING PRESS COVERAGE OF THIS DELICATE SITUATION HAS BEEN REMARKABLE FOR ITS RESTRAINT, FAIRNESS AND OBJECTIVITY. ON THE ADVICE OF THE TEAM, PARENTAL SPOKESMEN WHO MET WITH THE PRESS ALSO WERE CAREFUL AND CAUTIOUS IN THEIR STATEMENTS, SO AS NOT TO DISRUPT THE ONGOING REVIEW OF THEIR CHILDRENS' CASES.

3. THE PARENTS, THE PRESS AND INTERESTED CONGRESSMEN ALL SHARE WITH US A COMMON AWARENESS THAT THE ONE MONTH PERIOD SO FREQUENTLY ALLUDED TO WILL ELAPSE DURING THE NEXT WEEK. AT THAT POINT, IF NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING FROM THE GOB, THE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION ON BEHALF OF THESE US CITIZENS. A REVIEW OF OUR OPTIONS IS UNDERWAY AT PRESENT. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, CONGRESS MIGHT ALSO EMBARK ON SOME INITIATIVES AND WE WOULD RISK LOSING MUCH OF THE UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY WHICH OUR ACTIONS HAVE BROUGHT US TO DATE FROM INDIVIDUAL SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN AND THEIR STAFFS.

4. ACTION REQUIRED: YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO SEEK PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR SOONEST TO PRESS UPON HIM THE URGENCY OF OUR CONCERN THAT HE COMPLETE THE REVIEW. YOU MAY INFORM HIM THAT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHILE WE DESIRE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION, WE ARE DETERMINED TO OBTAIN JUSTICE FOR OUR FELLOW CITIZENS, IN ACCORD WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. WE ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE FOR THE MINISTER'S WILLINGNESS TO BECOME PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THIS COMPLEX ISSUE; IN PARTICULAR, HIS JANUARY 25 PLEDGE OF ACTION TO AMBASSADOR STEDMAN WAS A MOST ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT. BUT OUR HUMANITARIAN CONCERN, AS WELL AS THE RAPID GROWTH OF DOMESTIC US POLITICAL INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE, NOW MAKES IT IMPERATIVE THAT THE SITUATION BE RESOLVED.

5. FYI: WE ARE HIGHLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE SITUATION IN WHICH YOU FIND YOURSELF, IN THE ABSENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR AND HAVING NEWLY ARRIVED AT POST. THE DIFFICULT APPROACH WHICH WE HAVE ASKED YOU TO MAKE WILL OBVIOUSLY REQUIRE VERY SENSITIVE HANDLING ON YOUR PART. PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT YOU HAVE OUR FULL CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT IN THIS CRITICAL ENDEAVOR. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRISONERS WELFARE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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